

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 6, line 23, please replace the existing paragraph with the following.

In the example of Fig. 3A, a compression threshold 340 of 60% is selected. The determination of the sub-set in accordance with the threshold 340 is dependent on the cost improvement to be obtained such as compression of the sub-set of queries representing 60% of the total workload. The compression threshold ~~540~~340 results in selection of a sub-set of queries (310, 312, 314) for compression. Referring again to Fig. 2, at step 230, the selected sub-set of queries (310, 312, 314) are then compressed using known workload compression techniques. Therefore, the final workload after compression would consist of compressed queries 310, 312 and 314 with the remaining queries uncompressed. At the completion of the method 102, the most costly queries are compressed (i.e. the ones that will achieve the most benefit from compression) to obtain an overall improvement in workload execution cost while limiting the amount of resources spent in compression of the least costly queries.

On page 8, line 18, please replace the existing paragraph with the following.

Fig. 5A shows sub-steps in the method according to the present invention in accordance with an alternative embodiment of step 220 where an estimated execution time threshold is provided in order to determine a workload compression threshold. Execution of sub-steps 500 commences at 502. If the estimated execution time of the workload is within the allotted execution time (YES at 504) then no workload compression is required and the method is completed 516. ~~If however~~However, if the estimated execution time ~~cannot~~ is not within the

allotted execution time, meaning compression is required, (NO at step 504) a compression threshold percentage will be determined through iterative query selection and compression. The compression threshold is iterated between step 506 and 504 until the estimated execution time of the workload is less than or equal to the allotted execution time, to a desired compression percentage accuracy or until an allotted iteration execution time has been met at step 504.